

# THE VIRGINIA TEACHER

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## EDUCATIONAL COMMENT

### PWA ALLOTMENTS FOR EDUCATION

PWA allotments for non-Federal educational institutions up to August 1, 1935, totaled 349 completed projects, of which 21 were in Virginia. The estimated cost of these Virginia projects was \$1,458,634, the Federal allotment being \$514,770.

Projects under construction on the same date totaled 423, of which 22 were in Virginia. The estimated cost of the Virginia projects is \$5,176,948 and the Federal allotment is \$4,116,200.

Of the 772 PWA projects either completed or still under construction throughout the nation on August 1, considerably more than half (513) have been elementary school buildings, and 114 have been high school buildings.

### TWO STORIES ABOUT PENSIONS

The *Chicago Herald-Examiner* of August 8 had in adjoining columns on page 3 of the downstate edition two stories about pensions. The one in column five told about a suit being filed by two teachers aged 68 years, applying for an order by the court to

restrain the board of education from enforcing the law providing for compulsory retirement of all Chicago teachers at age 65 on the emeritus pension which had just been reduced by Senate Bill No. 528 from \$1,500 a year to \$500 a year.

The story in column four entitled "Insull to Rest with Pension of \$21,000 a Year," contained this paragraph:

Completely vindicated of all criminal charges in connection with the collapse of his utility empire, his pensions of \$21,000 restored, with a down payment of \$33,000 to make up for lost time, the former magnate was at peace with the world.

We happen to know that many teachers, as well as others, lost almost all their savings by the "collapse of the Insull Empire." But instead of a down payment of \$33,000 and a pension of \$21,000 a year, teachers had their emeritus pension reduced from \$1,500 to \$500 a year, and the regular pension was increased by such a small amount that the total is less than one-tenth of \$21,000.

Someone will say: "But Mr. Insull's pension of many thousands is not paid by taxation but by the utility companies."

But where do the utility companies get the money to pay the pension? Answer: They are selling certain necessities to the public, and are therefore usually called "public utilities." Therefore, the public will pay in the charges made on them by the public utilities the money with which the public utilities pay the Insull pension. In other words, the public utilities, without legislative sanction, are levying a sales tax on the public to pay a large pension to a man whose "utility empire," based upon a wild dream, collapsed and impoverished untold numbers of the people composing the public.

We have no grudge against Mr. Insull in particular. But we do hate a system that gives tremendously greater financial rewards for wrecking the finances of the people than for educating them so they may the better manage their financial



affairs, or a system that permits the levying of taxes to build up private fortunes and bitterly opposes taxes to pay fair wages for real social service.—R. C. MOORE, in the *Illinois Teacher*.

### NEW LIBRARY SERVICE

An important development in the small library field is the new *Abridged Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature*, published by the H. W. Wilson Co., New York.

The unabridged *Readers' Guide* provides an author and subject index to the contents of 100 leading reference periodicals. It has been for 30 years the veritable "bible" of thousands of librarians the country over.

But small libraries, taking only a few periodicals, do not need an index to 100 periodicals. Nor are they, in many cases, financially able to pay the minimum price of \$7.00 which the scope of the indexing made it necessary to charge.

The *Abridged Readers' Guide* is limited to 23 magazines and is sold on the well-known "service basis" plan, with a minimum of \$2.25, thus placing it within the reach of every library, no matter how small.

The 23 magazines indexed in the initial issue are, in alphabetical order: *American Magazine*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *Christian Science Monitor Weekly Magazine*, *Current History*, *Forum and Century*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Harper's Magazine*, *Hygeia*, *Literary Digest*, *National Geographic Magazine*, *Nature Magazine*, *New York Times Magazine*, *News-Week*, *Popular Mechanics Magazine*, *Popular Science Monthly*, *Reader's Digest*, *Review of Reviews*, *Scholastic*, *Scientific American*, *Scribner's Magazine*, *Survey*, *Time*, and the *Wilson Bulletin for Librarians*. These magazines were "elected" by a cross-section ballot of several hundred prospective subscribers.

### OUR INTERDEPENDENCE

The present emergency has done much to teach the American people that all their institutions are interrelated. There has been some disposition in times past to think of schools as detached institutions. Leaders in commercial, industrial, and political life have seldom considered it to be important for them to spend time and energy in improving schools. School people have too often looked upon business and politics as subjects entirely outside the circle of their interests. The economic crisis has made us all aware in a new and vivid way that schools are a part of the general social order and that the curriculums of schools and their methods of dealing with pupils are largely determined by the conditions of life outside the schools.—C. H. JUDD.

Perhaps no two great teachers have ever used precisely the same method or have followed the same procedure in the arrangement and carrying forward of their work. Some of the most inspiring teachers of English literature whom the American colleges have known were in the habit of reading to their classes, with proper emphasis and understanding, Shakespeare or Milton or Spenser, and thereby inspired their students to a lifelong reading of these classic writers and others of almost equal importance. A few well-known teachers of physics and of chemistry stirred their students by making before them certain fundamental and easily understood experiments and giving to these such interpretation as would make them fit easily and permanently into the fabric of the student's knowledge.

—NICHOLAS MURRAY BUTLER

The secret of being miserable is to have leisure to bother about whether you are happy or not.—GEORGE BERNARD SHAW.